

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, April 2003

**For more on these and other important stories, see April 2003 printed issue of *The Mercury*.
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Army medics help bring freedom to Iraq

Army medical units join other U.S. and allied forces in action in Iraq. Details of medical support are obscured by operational security as *The Mercury* goes to press. The 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory is in theater, to identify potentially hazardous materials. Other Army medical personnel prepare to receive casualties in the U.S. and Europe, while maintaining care for regular patients. Reserve personnel are activated to replace some deployed soldiers.

First new Stryker ambulances ready for duty

"I'm in love with it. It drives as smooth as any civilian car," says SPC Richard Gieck, a medic with 1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry, Fort Lewis, Wash., about the Army's newest ground ambulance, the Stryker Medical Evacuation Vehicle. Officials say 32 vehicles will be available by May. The Stryker MEV is lighter, faster and rides smoother than the M113 ambulance. It can be deployed on a C-130 and features an efficient internal layout, powered litter lift and bright lighting. (with photos)

Clark becomes senior enlisted advisor

CSM Jack L. Clark, Jr., is now command sergeant major of Medical Command and senior enlisted advisor to the Army Surgeon General. He replaces CSM James M. Aplin, who retired after 27 years' service. Clark's previous assignment was command sergeant major of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Clark deployed with the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Just Cause, and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Medical care advances since Desert Storm

Medics in Iraq are serving in a tradition of compassion and competence going back 227 years, writes Army Surgeon General and MEDCOM Commander LTG James B. Peake. But how care is delivered does not stand still. Even since the last war in Iraq, great progress has been made, e.g., more DEPMEDS shelters, increased modularity/flexibility due to the Medical Reengineering Initiative, forward surgical teams, better chemical-biological protection, soldier-medics with more training and more advanced skills, better electronic record-keeping, and a whole command – the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – focused on coping with potential environmental hazards. Other important stories in this month's edition of the *Mercury* include:

- New Transition Employment Assistance for MEDCOM/AMEDD (TEAM) program provides advance electronic notices to MEDCOM supervisors about incoming military family members, facilitating possible job offers even before family members' arrival.
- Controversy abounds about the pros and cons of anthrax and smallpox inoculations, but a top military vaccine expert says DoD medical policies are rooted in science.
- Moved by a love of animals and gratitude to America's defenders, a growing number of Americans are offering temporary foster care for pets of deploying military personnel.
- DoD researchers say an anthrax-killing enzyme called lysin is now being tested for possible future use as a medical treatment against the deadly bacteria.
- Controlling combat stress is often the difference between victory and defeat, says a 30th Medical Brigade news release, and this article gives tips for doing that.
- A steady flow of human research volunteers at the Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., test everything worn, carried or consumed by warfighters.
- Landstuhl Regional Medical Center celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- Cheryl M. Keopuhiwa, health-benefits advisor at Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, Hawaii, is named Medical Command's 2002 Beneficiary Advisor of the Year.
- CW2 William S. Bosley, CPT Mark G. Hartell, CPT Michael A. Dean, CPT Glen J. Winekauf and CPT Rachel J. Wienke get 2002 MSC Corps Chief's Award of Excellence.
- Photos: Eisenhower Army Medical Center's Skylight nuclear-medicine camera; new medals for war on terrorism; model of winning design for Pentagon 9-11 memorial; dentist CPT Jerrod Long, 307th Forward Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, treats Afghan on humanitarian mission; SSG Ken Deveaney, medical maintenance NCO, 48th Combat Support Hospital, examines oxygen generator at Bagram, Afghanistan, hospital; 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) soldier checks HH-60L medevac helicopter at Bagram, Afghanistan; medic SGT Hilda Lerma, Task Force 44, Afghanistan, bandages 1SG Leonard Houser during mass-casualty exercise; Ted Hammond, DENTAC Alaska prosthodontist, trains at Fort Richardson pool for swimming competitions.
- Trussie Bristow wins Men's Advanced Heavyweight, Senior Fight division at Amateur Athletic Union's Grand National Tae Kwon Do Championship. He is a Reserve NCO in the 2290th Army Hospital, serving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- Commentary: "Vietnam vet pays tribute to Army nurses," by retired COL Douglas E. Moore, a medevac helicopter pilot and patient in Vietnam, praises Army nurses.
- Healthy eating on deployment is the soldier's responsibility, writes U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine expert MSG Jennifer V. Brown.